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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR
THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Second session
Geneva, 13-24 September 1993
Agenda item 3

ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations held on draft decision A/AC.241/L.12

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992, establishing the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of a Convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, with a view to finalizing such a convention by June 1994,

Recalling also decision 2/1 adopted by the Committee on 13 September 1993, in particular para 1.c thereof,

Recognizing that, in view of the global dimension and the complexity of the problems relating to desertification and/or drought and of the particular conditions affecting each region, including regions other than Africa, an effective Convention should deal with the specific needs of each region,

1. Decides to recommend for adoption by the General Assemby at its forty-eighth session, the draft resolution contained in the Annex to the present resolution;

2. Decides also to establish at its third session a programme of work for the final stages of the negotiation, including the elaboration of regional instruments, in conformity with decision 2/1, and the adoption of a decision on interim arrangements for the period leading up to the first session of the Conference of the Parties;

3. Requests the Secretariat to continue to support the preparation of a regional instrument on Africa and similar instruments for Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as to take into account other affected regions;

4. Requests the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to report to the General Assembly on the progress of the negotiations;

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*/ Re-issued for technical reasons.

Annex

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/172 of 19 December 1989, 44/228 of 22 December 1989 and other relevant General Assembly resolutions, as well as decisions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular the recommendation by which the Conference invited the General Assembly to establish, under its auspices, an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa,

Recalling its resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 by which it established the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of a Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, with a view to finalizing such a convention by June 1994,

Recognizing that desertification and/or drought affects all continents and is thus a problem of global dimension and that concrete measures have to be taken in all regions, particularly in Africa, within the framework of the Convention,

Reiterating the objective that the Convention be finalized by June 1994, and that it shall be implemented as soon as possible,

Taking note with appreciation of the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its first and second substantive sessions;

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General concerning the progress of the negotiations on the Convention,

1. Urges the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to successfully complete the negotiations by June 1994, in accordance with resolution 47/188;

2. Decides that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee shall hold one session after the adoption of the Convention in order to review the situation in the interim period pending the entry into force of the Convention, in particular with regard to the implementation of provisions adapted to the specific needs of each region;

3. Further decides that the session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee after the adoption of the Convention, should be held not later than 31 January 1995; and requests the Secretary-General to make appropriate arrangements for the functioning of the ad hoc secretariat and the multidisciplinary panel of experts to service that session;

4. Also decides that the negotiating process shall continue to be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to the trust fund established pursuant to its resolution 47/188 specifically for that purpose for the duration of the negotiations and administered by the head of the ad hoc Secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General, with the possibility of carrying over resources contributed from one fiscal year to the other;

5. Takes note of the contributions of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other relevant international organizations dealing with desertification, drought and development to the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in the conduct of its mandate and invites them to continue to provide such support;

6. Takes note with appreciation of the initial contributions made to the trust fund and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to continue their support for the fund;

7. Invites the international community, in particular the developed countries, and other countries in a position to do so, to make voluntary contributions to the INCD Secretariat and/or UNSO/UNDP and any other relevant international and regional organizations to allow them to assist countries affected by drought and/or desertification in all regions, particularly in Africa, in their preparation for the negotiating process.

8. Takes note with appreciation of the contributions made to the special voluntary fund established pursuant to its resolution 47/188 to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, to participate fully and effectively in the negotiation process, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to continue to contribute generously to this fund;

9. Further takes note of the arrangements made by the Secretary-General and of the welcome support of relevant or interested organizations, organs, programmes and concerned agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental, sub-regional and regional organizations in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and invites them to continue to participate actively in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in the future;

10. Urges Governments to continue to organize, in close collaboration with the regional commissions and national, sub-regional and regional organizations, activities to support the process of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, involving the scientific and industrial communities, trade unions, the relevant non-governmental organizations and other interested groups;

11. Takes note of the assistance provided by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office\UNDP to the countries covered under its mandate in their preparations for and participation in the negotiating process and invites the Office to continue to support the governments concerned and to continue to mobilize resources for this purpose;

12. Further takes note of the constructive contribution of relevant non-governmental organizations to the success of the negotiating process, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and taking into account procedures used in the process of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and encourages them and particularly non-governmental organizations from developing countries, to continue to contribute to the success of the negotiating process;

13. Reiterates its request to the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to continue to submit progress reports on the negotiations to the Commission on Sustainable Development and other appropriate bodies;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as scientific and other institutions concerned;

15. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session a sub-item entitled "Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa" under an agenda item entitled "Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development".